
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2030 Sea Level Drive #205
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Date: April 04, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.

WEST BEHM CANAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY 12-HR NOTICE

Ketchikan. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the West Behm Canal purse seine herring sac roe fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice effective 12:00 noon, Thursday, April 5, 2012. This means that a fishery could be opened with a minimum of two hours notice after that time. The earliest the fishery could open is Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

This 12-hour notice is the last notice that purse seine fishermen will have as a reminder to register to participate in the 2012 West Behm Canal purse seine fishery. The equal share quota (ESQ) will be determined by the 748 ton GHL divided by the number of eligible purse seine fishermen that have registered with the department at the time of the issuance of the 2-hour notice. The ESQ for the fishery will then be announced by VHF to the fleet at least one hour before the fishery starts.

A spawn of approximately 3/4 nautical mile was observed in Vallenar Bay this morning with several schools of fish backing it up. The spawn was light but seems to be the front end of a body of fish that wraps around the north end of Vallenar Point and consists of numerous schools of fish in Tongass Narrows south to Ward Cove.

The fishery is being put on notice for the following reasons:

- a spawn has been documented in Vallenar Bay;
- herring can be seen in Vallenar Bay;
- herring can be seen in Tongass Narrows from Ward Cove to Vallenar Point; and
- predators have been observed increasing in the area.

Fishermen should be aware that department surveys **have not** documented large amounts of herring in the West Behm Canal area, and have documented only a small amount of herring in those waters open for commercial fishing

Fish and Game biologists will be conducting surveys in West Behm Canal and any announcements concerning the fishery will be announced from the Ketchikan ADF&G office.

Fishermen are reminded that the open area for the West Behm Canal herring purse seine fishery is those waters of Section 1-E and 1-F north of the latitude of South Vallenar Point located at 55°22.88' N. latitude, 131°52.75'W. longitude with the following restriction:

All waters of Clover Pass, Tongass Narrows, Moser Bay and Naha Bay will be closed south and east of a line from Indian Point located at 55°36.85' N. latitude, 131°42.03' W. longitude, to the northeastern tip of Betton Island located at 55°32.56' N. latitude, 131°47.66' W. longitude, to the southwest tip of Betton Island located at 55°30.22' N. latitude, 131°50.32' W. longitude, to Guard Island Light, to Vallenar Point located at 55°25.58' N. latitude, 131°51.09' W. longitude.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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